

It is late afternoon. There are noises, dozens of people moving in and out of a large doorway, people with bags slung over their shoulders, and others riding skateboards, weaving through the crowd with practiced ease. The door follows a long hallway where plenty of people can be seen talking animatedly, their voices blending into a lively hum. Right by them are a bunch of lockers stationed on the grey walls, some adorned with colorful stickers and photos. The air is filled with the scent of freshly polished floors and the faint aroma of cafeteria food. A group of students huddle near a bulletin board, discussing the latest school events and upcoming exams. Teachers can be seen walking briskly, their arms laden with books and papers. The atmosphere is a mix of excitement and anticipation, typical of a high school in full swing.



And right at the end of the hallway is Ahnaf, sitting on the bench, looking forward. It is his first year as a high school student, and he sits here on this bench every day in the afternoon, just to look at this new girl. A girl with a smile as bright as a diamond, her slender body with curly blonde hair and her face being peachy in tone. She wears broad glasses, looking a bit like a nerd but pretty, nonetheless. She can be seen talking to a few of her friends, holding a bunch of books close to her chest. Ahnaf watches her, his heart racing with a mix of nervousness and excitement, wondering if today might be the day he finally gathers the courage to talk to her.

Ahnaf comes here to the same place every day just to look at her as he did not have the courage to talk to her. He looks at her and thinks to himself:

'Gosh, she is beautiful; it feels like I can watch her all day and it would still feel like a few minutes. It's unfortunate that I don't have the courage to talk... no, what are you doing, man? Just go talk to her, say something like... "Hi, what's your name?" Nooooo, that would be too forward... something like... "Oh hey, haven't seen you around, are you new?" Like hell no! I am new too, that sounds so cringe... man, how am I ever gonna start a conversation with this girl.'

He continues to brainstorm, his mind racing with possibilities:

'Maybe I could drop my books near her and say, "Oops, clumsy me! Can you help me pick these up?" No, that's too cliché... How about, "Hey, do you know where the library is?" No, she'll think I'm a nerd... Wait, what if I just walk up and say, "Hi, I noticed you have a great taste in books. What's your favorite?" Ugh, that sounds so lame...'



And then I saw Ahnaf, my childhood friend, sitting and stalking that poor girl over there. I feel bad for him, but at the same time, if I don't do something, he's going to get a harassment complaint sooner or later.

So, I took the initiative and went ahead towards the girl he is looking at while Ahnaf thinks to himself:

'Is that... is that Eric! What is he doing up there... hmmm he always had the courage to talk to people... wait, is he going to talk to that girl!!!! I have been trying to talk to her for days now and he's going

to do it just like that... can't blame him though, a girl like her would have many admirers, heh maybe I can't but I hope Eric can do it. Ahhh that's... just my bad luck.'

I whispered something to her ears, she gave a slight smile and then started moving towards... Ahnaf. Looking at that, Ahnaf was in shock.

'Is she... IS SHE COMING TOWARDS ME!!! What did Eric say to her? OMG!!! Calm down, calm down, I am sure she... she is just...'

"Hi..." The girl gave a smile while standing in front of Ahnaf.

"Umm, hi..." Ahnaf replied, his voice trembling slightly.

"Is that seat empty?" she asked, pointing to the bench beside him.

"Oh yes, yes it is," Ahnaf stammered.

"You wouldn't mind if I take a seat, would you?" she asked with a playful grin.

"What, really? Oh, I mean, not at all! Please, sit all you want, it is yours!" Ahnaf blurted out, his face turning a shade of red.

"Thank you... so, you come here often?" she asked, settling down beside him.

"Umm, yes, I do... I mean, the view is nice and all," Ahnaf said, trying to sound casual.

The girl looked down the bland hallway with nothing but the entrance in front. "Wow, really?" she said, raising an eyebrow.

"Well, the view with you in it makes it all the way brighter," Ahnaf quickly covered his mouth and laughed nervously.

"Haha, we have a little stalker here, don't we?" The girl laughed along with Ahnaf, bumping her shoulder against his.

"Heyyyy, it's not like that... I just wanted to-" Ahnaf started to explain, but she cut him off with a giggle.

"Relax, I'm just messing with you," she said, her eyes twinkling with amusement.

Feeling a bit more at ease. "So, what brings you to this part of the hallway?"

"Oh, just escaping the chaos for a bit," Kelly said with a shrug. "And maybe hoping to run into someone interesting."

"Well, you found me," Ahnaf said with a grin, feeling a surge of confidence. "I'm definitely interesting... in a totally non-stalker way, of course."

Kelly laughed again, and Ahnaf couldn't help but join in. For the first time, he felt like maybe, just maybe, things were looking up.



"So you just wanted to laugh or would you also like to ask me out?" she says with a smile, a smile that brightens up the whole room. If it were not for Ahnaf, I would have taken the initiative to talk to her, but alas... my friend Ahnaf, he deserves the best.

She looked at him and he looked at her for a few seconds, and then Ahnaf broke the silence.

"Y-yes... I mean... well, what if I say yes?"

"Hmm..." She places her finger near her lips and looks up at the ceiling, pretending to ponder deeply. "I would say I am available for a coffee right now..."

"Really!!! Then let's go!" Ahnaf, being enthusiastic, stands up along with the girl as they start walking shoulder to shoulder.

She then slightly bumps into him and speaks.

"Usually, I am shy but... I... wanted to talk to you as well..."

Ahnaf smiled happily as he looks at her. "Wow, I... never expected that... you... you are so amazing!"

"Thank you, but I have a question."

"Sure, what is it?"

"You haven't told me your name yet."

"Omg, I am soooooo sorry... I completely forgot-"

"Really!!! You forgot your name!!??" she teased, her eyes sparkling with mischief.

"Ahhh no nooo, I mean I forgot to tell you... Ahem, hi, my name is Ahnaf. May I have yours?"

She looks at him in the eye and smiles. "You are cute... My name is... **Kelly**."



Her name echoes through the hallway, bringing peace to Ahnaf's heart, filling him with joy like never before. At this point in his life, he felt blessed to be alive, and why wouldn't he be? It was the first time he met Kelly three years ago when he was just a freshman in high school. People say that it takes 7 minutes for the brain to die, and within those 7 minutes, a person reminisces about the best moments of their life.

But then suddenly, as the world starts blurring down around him, warping completely until there is nothing but darkness left.

Everyone is gone, the people, the lockers, the walls, and even Kelly, replaced by nothing but darkness.

'What happened... where am I... WHAT IS THIS PLACE!!!'

In the vast darkness, he sees a purple light glowing in the distance, the same purple tint as he has seen before in many of his dreams. Having no other choice, he runs towards it, and while he is running, faint voices can be heard. The closer he gets, the louder the voices become.

"He was the best of us..."

"We can't fight that monster, not without him."

"Don't forget he is the reason she even exists!"

"He loved her, too much..."

"Too much to let her go."

"My power alone can't stop it, not when it has become this strong."

"What are we going to do then?"

"As humanity's final hope... We fight."

"Fight till our last... breath."

Soon after, the purple light starts taking shape as he moves closer to it. What could be seen was a giant dead Willow Tree with thousands of dead people hanging from its branches where the leaves should have been. Ahnaf looks at the scene with dread, unable to process what he is seeing.

The air around him grows colder, and a chilling wind whispers through the darkness, carrying with it the faint scent of decay. The ground beneath his feet feels uneven and treacherous, as if he is walking on the bones of the fallen. Shadows dance around the base of the tree, their forms shifting and writhing like tortured souls.



And then a faint voice is heard coming out from the tree. Faint but starts getting louder with each passing second and starting to take shape.

"Ahn..."

"Ahnaf..."

"Is... that... you..."

The voice is haunting, echoing through the darkness, sending shivers down Ahnaf's spine. It feels as if the very air around him is vibrating with the sound, growing more intense with each passing moment.

"Ahnaf, come to me..."

"I don't want to lose you again, Ahnaf..."

The voice becomes more desperate, more insistent, as if it is reaching out to him from the depths of the abyss. The tree's branches seem to twist and writhe, the dead bodies swaying eerily as the voice grows louder.

"COME TO ME, AHNAF!!!"

"MY LOVE... MY... EVERYTHING!!!"

The voice is now a deafening roar, filling Ahnaf's mind with a sense of dread and urgency. The purple light from the orb pulses violently,

casting grotesque shadows that dance around him like malevolent spirits.

"AHNAF"

"AHNAF"

"AHNAF"

"AHNAF"

"AHNAF"

The repetition of his name is relentless, each utterance more chilling than the last. The ground beneath him trembles, and the air grows colder, as if the very essence of the darkness is closing in on him. Ahnaf's heart races, his breath coming in short, panicked gasps. He feels an overwhelming sense of fear, but also a strange compulsion to move closer to the tree.

As he takes a hesitant step forward, the voices of the dead seem to join in, their hollow whispers merging with the main voice, creating a cacophony of despair and longing.

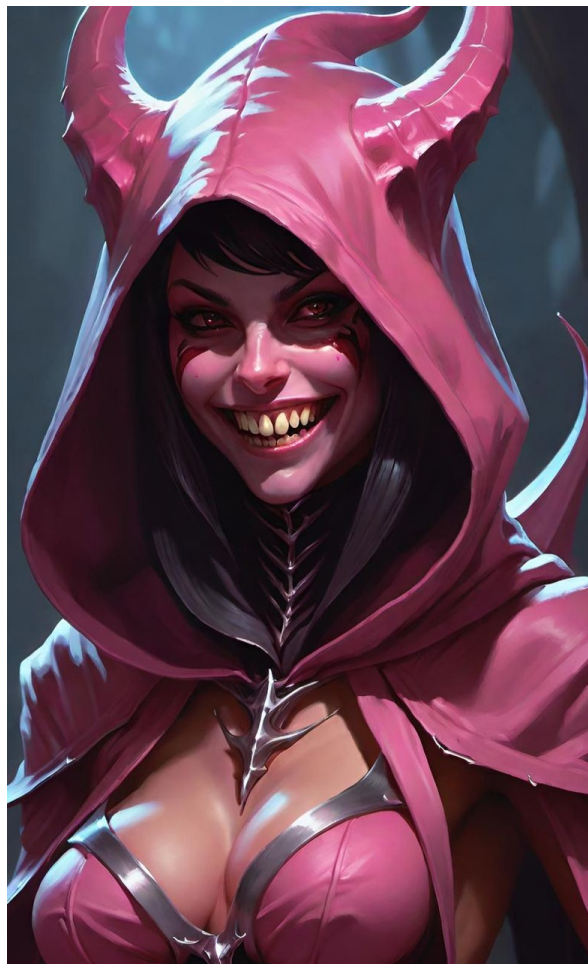
"Ahnaf... save me..."

"Ahnaf... don't leave me..."

"Ahnaf... I need you..."

The sight of the dead hanging from the tree, their lifeless eyes staring at him, only adds to the terror. The purple light intensifies, and the voice reaches a fever pitch, echoing in his mind like a relentless nightmare.

"AHNAF!!!"



And then a sudden push came on Ahnaf's shoulder.

"AHNAF, WAKE UP!!!"

A splash of cold water fell on Ahnaf, as he woke up hastily, gasping for air.

"huuu... HUFFF ... PUFFF... wha... what happened? Where am I?"

He turned his head, there were wooden fences and bushes around him as the sunlight cast a dark shadow on him. It looked like somebody's yard.

"Ssssshhhhh," I put a finger near my lips, asking him to stay quiet. I gestured for him to look beyond the fence.

He softly walked up to it and peeked his head slightly. Right beyond the fence, his house could be seen in the distance. But the crazy thing was that there were multiple black cars and SWAT trucks standing. Multiple police and army personnel could be seen coming in and out of his home with white paper bags. Right outside near one of the trucks, his mom, Ruvana, could be seen, sitting on a chair with a white shawl around her, talking to some of the personnel.

Ahnaf's heart raced as he took in the scene. The yard he was in was overgrown, with tall grass and untrimmed bushes providing some cover. The wooden fence was old and weathered, with gaps between the planks that allowed him to see through. The sunlight filtering through the trees cast dappled shadows on the ground, adding to the sense of unease.

He could hear the muffled voices of the police and army personnel, their radios crackling with static. The sight of the SWAT trucks and

black cars parked haphazardly on the street sent a chill down his spine. The white paper bags being carried in and out of his home made his stomach churn with anxiety.

Ruvana, his mother, looked pale and distressed as she spoke to the officers. Her hands trembled slightly as she clutched the shawl around her shoulders. Ahnaf could see the worry etched on her face, and it broke his heart to see her like this.



"What is going on? What are all these vehicles doing here?" Ahnaf whispered urgently.

"What do you think?" I answered, frustration evident in my voice.
"Our cover is blown! These stupid makeshift facemasks are of no use anymore!!!"

"But how is that possible..." Ahnaf's voice trailed off, confusion and fear mingling in his eyes.

"Oh, I am sure this is Ramsey's doing. He knew all about us!!!" I replied, my tone bitter.

"Okay, okay, calm down, Eric... alright, so, what are we gonna do now???" Ahnaf asked, trying to steady his breathing.

"I don't know... I don't think anywhere is safe. Ramsey knew all about us. I'm sure my house and Kelly's are already under surveillance..."

"Can't you just pick me up and mom and run far away from this place?" Ahnaf suggested, desperation creeping into his voice.

"I could, but ughh... my leg still hurts from the bullet wound, and I pushed myself too far already even after that, fighting you then saving you... I can't even walk without any support to hold on to," I explained, wincing at the pain in my leg.

"Regardless, we need to get out of here... wait, what's that noise-" Ahnaf's sentence was cut short as we both got startled by a footstep.

We turned around to face it. Beyond the bush, wearing a white shirt and a skirt, came... Kelly. She had her fingers on her lips, gesturing for us to keep quiet.

Kelly's eyes were wide with urgency as she approached us. "Ssssshhhhh," she whispered, her voice barely audible. "They're looking for you. We need to move, now."



"Kelly!!!" Ahnaf runs in close to her and wraps his hand around her waist, hugging her tightly.

"I... I missed you... I thought I would never see you again!!!" Ahnaf whispers with tears in his eyes.

"It is okay, Ahnaf... it is all going to be alright, don't worry. We will take care of it, okay?" Kelly replied, her voice soothing.

"But why did you come here? It is too dangerous for you."

"We need to get you out of the city, somewhere safe... I know a way."

"Where???" Ahnaf asked, his voice filled with urgency.

"The woods, Glendale Woods up north. We start there and follow the route outside," Kelly suggested.

Ahnaf nodded, but then paused, thinking. "Wait, before we decide, let's consider all our options. We need to be sure."

"You're right," I said, joining the conversation. "We can't rush into this. Let's think of other ways."

"How about the old subway tunnels?" Ahnaf suggested. "They've been abandoned for years. We could use them to move around the city without being seen."

Kelly shook her head. "It's a good idea, but the tunnels are dangerous and unstable. We might get trapped or lost down there."

"Okay, what about the river?" I proposed. "We could find a boat and travel upstream. It would be harder for them to track us on the water."

"That could work," Kelly said, considering the idea. "But we'd need to find a boat and supplies quickly. And there's always the risk of being spotted from the air."

"There's also the possibility of hiding in plain sight," Ahnaf suggested. "We could blend in with the crowds in the city center, find a safe house, and wait for things to calm down."

"That might work for a short while," I replied. "But eventually, they'd find us. We need a long-term solution."

Kelly nodded. "The woods are still our best bet. It's remote, and we can use the terrain to our advantage. But we need to be prepared."

"Alright," Ahnaf agreed. "Let's gather what we need and head to Glendale Woods. But we should have a backup plan in case things go wrong."

"Agreed," Kelly said. "We'll take the river route as our backup. If we can't make it to the woods, we'll find a boat and head upstream."

With a plan in place, we quickly gathered our belongings and prepared to leave. The tension was palpable, but we knew we had to stay focused and work together to survive.

We followed Kelly as she slowly led us away from Ahnaf's home. My legs still hurt, so Ahnaf picked me up and placed my arm around his shoulder as I walked with him. We reached the forest, which was the nearest safe place. The forest was peaceful, with greenery all around and birds chirping in the large trees above us. We kept walking north, as it was the only route near us that would lead us out of the city.

The forest's canopy provided a cool shade, and the scent of pine and earth filled the air. The path was narrow and winding, with roots and rocks jutting out, making it difficult to navigate. Ahnaf's strength was a blessing, as he helped me over the rough terrain, his determination unwavering.

Kelly led the way, her eyes scanning the surroundings for any signs of danger. She moved with a sense of purpose, her steps confident and sure. The tension from earlier began to ease as we immersed ourselves in the tranquility of the forest.



"So, what are we going to do after we escape?" I asked.

"I don't know, maybe go to some small town, maybe stay low for a bit?" Ahnaf replied.

"Ahnaf, I don't think this situation is going to cool down. They know what you guys are. Even if it takes them dozens of years, they will keep looking for you," Kelly answered in an exhausted tone.

"Yeah, that's right. Oh, hey! How did you find us in the yard, though?" Ahnaf asked, curiosity piqued.

Kelly looked at us as soft winds started blowing around us. "Oh, it was simple, really! I used the vigil app that you gave to me to track your smartwatch."

At that point, all of us stopped and looked at each other, realization dawning on our faces. We knew what was going to happen now; our cover was blown because we were still wearing the same smartwatches. The wind started blowing faster, rustling the leaves around us, creating an eerie atmosphere.

A faint, distant thrumming noise began to fill the air, growing louder with each passing second. The sound was unmistakable – the rhythmic beat of helicopter blades cutting through the sky. The tension in the air was palpable as we exchanged worried glances.

"Do you hear that?" Ahnaf whispered, his voice barely audible over the increasing noise.

The thrumming grew louder, more insistent, as if the helicopters were zeroing in on our location. The sound seemed to reverberate through the forest, sending shivers down our spines. We could feel the vibrations in the ground beneath our feet, a constant reminder of the impending danger.

Kelly's eyes widened with fear. "We need to move, now!" she urged, her voice trembling.

But it was too late. The helicopters were upon us, their powerful searchlights cutting through the trees, casting long, ominous

shadows. The noise was deafening, drowning out any hope of conversation.

Ahnaf looked up at the sky, his heart sinking as he saw multiple helicopters hovering above, their blades slicing through the air with relentless precision. The realization hit him like a ton of bricks – they had found us.

"Oh no..." Ahnaf muttered, his voice filled with despair.



We started running as fast as we could as the helicopter turned back around, and ropes could be seen falling from it, followed by multiple SWAT personnel grappling down with guns in their hands. The forest, once a place of refuge, now felt like a trap closing in on us. The sound of the helicopter blades was deafening, and the shouts of the SWAT team echoed through the trees.

"STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!!!" one of the officers bellowed, his voice amplified by a megaphone.

"YOU ARE SURROUNDED!!!" another shouted, the urgency in his voice sending chills down our spines.

"COME QUIETLY WITH US AND NOBODY WILL BE HARMED!!!" the commands were relentless, each one more forceful than the last.

"TARGET IN SIGHT, TARGET IN SIGHT!!!" a voice crackled over the radio, confirming our worst fears.

Our hearts pounded in our chests as we sprinted through the dense underbrush, the branches and leaves whipping against our faces. The ground was uneven, and every step felt like a battle to keep our balance. The adrenaline coursing through our veins was the only thing keeping us moving.

Ahnaf's grip on my shoulder tightened as he helped me navigate the rough terrain. Kelly led the way, her eyes darting around, searching for any possible escape route. The sound of heavy boots pounding the ground behind us grew louder, the SWAT team closing in.



But we did not stop, we kept moving as fast as we could and then suddenly shots were fired. I could hear a wave of bullets coming from all directions behind us as Ahnaf jumped down and went prone on the sheet of leaves around us with Kelly and me. It passed through and some of them hit the tree trunks around us. Some of the bullets fell near us, they were tiny balls of rubber, non-lethal rounds. At least we know they don't want to kill us.

I said, "Guys, we can't all make it out. Take Kelly and get her out of here. I will distract them as much as I can!"

Ahnaf denies, "No way we are not leaving you here."

I stand up, ready to burst out running, "You are, if you care about Kelly, don't worry I-"

Before I could finish my sentence, I took a deep breath and focused all my energy. My muscles tensed, and I felt the familiar surge of power coursing through my veins. The world around me seemed to slow down as I prepared to use my super speed. I could see every detail in sharp clarity – the leaves rustling in the wind, the determined look on Ahnaf's face, and the fear in Kelly's eyes.

With a burst of energy, I launched myself forward, my legs moving at an incredible speed. The ground blurred beneath me as I sprinted towards the SWAT team, determined to draw their attention away from Ahnaf and Kelly. The wind whipped past my face, and I felt a rush of adrenaline as I zigzagged through the trees, dodging the rubber bullets.

But just as I was gaining momentum, a sudden jolt of pain shot through my body. I stumbled, my vision blurring as I realized what had happened. A taser dart had struck me, sending electric shocks coursing through my muscles. My legs gave out, and I collapsed to the ground, my body convulsing uncontrollably.

"Eric!" Ahnaf shouted, his voice filled with panic.



"Agghh, AAAAAHHHHHH!!!" I screamed, the pain coursing through my body like a thousand needles.

"No... No way... NO WAY!!! I am not letting us get caught!!!" Ahnaf screamed as he jumped up to the nearby tree.

Ahnaf locates the shooters as they are closing in on us from all directions. He jumps down towards a wave of SWAT personnel, grabbing one of their guns and twisting it out of their hands. With a massive punch to the chest, he sends the officer flying, crashing into a tree with a thud.

He looks behind him as others are readying their aim at him, but he swiftly moves away, dodging the wave of bullets and taser shots with ease. His movements are a blur, his superhuman speed and strength on full display.

Sliding down to another SWAT officer, Ahnaf causes the dry leaves to fly all over the area, creating a small fog of dust. He punches the officer in the chest, sending him blasting away into a nearby tree. The impact is so powerful that the tree shakes, leaves falling like rain.

Ahnaf keeps dodging, his reflexes sharp and precise. He slides down again, causing a mini fog of dust that blinds the officers. Using the cover, he takes them down one by one, his fists moving like lightning.

He grabs another officer by the collar, lifting him off the ground with ease. "You picked the wrong day to mess with us," Ahnaf growls before throwing the officer into a group of his comrades, knocking them down like bowling pins.

More SWAT personnel rush in, but Ahnaf is relentless. He ducks under a swing, delivering a powerful uppercut that sends another officer flying. He spins around, kicking another in the chest, the force of the blow sending the officer skidding across the ground.

The air is filled with the sounds of grunts, crashes, and the relentless thudding of Ahnaf's punches. Despite the overwhelming numbers,

Ahnaf fights with a desperate determination, his super strength giving him the edge he needs.

He grabs a fallen branch, using it as a makeshift weapon. Swinging it with incredible force, he knocks out several officers in one go. The branch splinters under the impact, but Ahnaf doesn't slow down.

"Come on, is that all you've got?" Ahnaf taunts, his eyes blazing with determination. He charges at another group, his fists a blur as he takes them down with a series of rapid punches and kicks.

Despite his best efforts, the sheer number of SWAT personnel is overwhelming. Ahnaf knows he can't keep this up forever, but he fights on, desperate to buy time for Kelly and me to escape.



Ahnaf was in complete rage as he knew he was the last line of defense between him and us and our freedom. But he could only do so much as the SWAT kept flooding in from all directions. His fists flew, his strength unmatched, but the sheer number of enemies was overwhelming.

And then, a gigantic BOOM echoed through the forest, a sound so powerful it seemed to shake the very ground beneath us. A bullet came at intense speed, striking Ahnaf's left knee with brutal force. The impact twisted his knee around, causing him to fall to the ground with a cry of pain.

"AAAAHHHH!!!" Ahnaf screamed, clutching his injured knee.

In the distance, through the haze of dust and chaos, a figure emerged. A man in a black suit with black glasses, smoking a cigar, stood with a large heavy sniper rifle in his hand. His presence was imposing, and the air around him seemed to crackle with menace.

The man took a slow drag from his cigar, exhaling a plume of smoke as he surveyed the scene with cold, calculating eyes. He lowered the rifle, a smirk playing on his lips as he watched Ahnaf struggle to get back up.



Ahnaf took a few seconds on the ground, processing the pain and the situation. But he did not stop. Even though his leg was broken, he used his hands and his last working leg to pull himself up from the ground, moving on all fours like a primal beast. His eyes locked onto the man in black, filled with a burning rage and determination.

With a guttural growl, Ahnaf grabbed the ground, applying pressure to it, and then he jumped. The man quickly took another shot, but he missed as Ahnaf landed nearby, causing a small shockwave that rippled through the ground. The force of his landing sent leaves and debris flying into the air.

Ahnaf, moving on all fours like a feral creature, rushed towards the man with incredible speed. His movements were wild and desperate, driven by a primal instinct to protect his friends and fight for their freedom. His muscles strained with every step, his breath coming in ragged gasps.

The man in black watched Ahnaf's approach with a cold, calculating gaze. Just as Ahnaf was about to reach him, the man smiled and, with a swift motion, threw a flashbang on the ground.

The device exploded with a blinding light and a deafening bang, causing Ahnaf to go blind for a second. He stumbled, disoriented and in pain, his senses overwhelmed by the sudden burst of light and sound. The world around him spun, and he struggled to regain his bearings.



But Ahnaf then clasps both his hands and smashes them on the ground one after the other uncontrollably, causing tiny shockwaves with every hit, pushing the man away from the location and surrounding himself with a fog of dust. The man now threw away his sniper rifle, knowing it was of no use this close, and brought out a heavy revolver, looking around him, trying to find Ahnaf, but he was nowhere to be seen.

I have never seen Ahnaf like this in my life, such rage and desperateness, it is as if his indomitable will has taken an extreme step, causing him to adapt to every situation he is in.

Ahnaф remembered his training about using smoke and dust as cover. He knew that in a fight, visibility could be his greatest ally or his worst enemy. The dust cloud he had created was his shield, and he intended to use it to his advantage.

There was a movement on the man's right, and on instinct, he shot quickly. But there was nothing. Then on the left, off went another shot, but nothing again. The man was growing frustrated, his eyes darting around, trying to pierce through the thick dust.

Ahnaф moved silently, his senses heightened. He threw branches on either side to create distractions, keeping the man guessing. The dust slowly started settling down, and a pair of eyes could be seen from the top of a tree. It was Ahnaф, watching his opponent with a predator's focus.

The man quickly took notice and readied his gun as Ahnaф jumped down from the tree. Ahnaф's movements were swift and precise, his body a blur as he closed the distance. But the man rolled over and dodged with ease, his reflexes sharp.

The man pointed his revolver at Ahnaф and fired three quick shots. Two missed, but one found its mark, hitting Ahnaф's right shoulder and taking away a small chunk of his flesh.



But Ahnaf did not scream. He knew that in just a few seconds, all movement from his right shoulder would halt as he was running purely on adrenaline. He quickly placed both his hands on the ground and applied pressure with massive force. Then, with a powerful thrust, he flung himself up into the air, clasping both his hands together, ready to dive in for a Skyfall.

The man in black looked up at the sky, his eyes narrowing as he aimed the revolver at Ahnaf. Under his glasses, he closed one eye, focusing on his target. Ahnaf was diving in faster and faster, closing the gap between them with incredible speed.

Time seemed to slow down as Ahnaf descended, his determination unwavering. The man steadied his aim, his finger tightening on the trigger. Two shots rang out, echoing through the forest.

One bullet struck Ahnaf's chest, the impact sending a shockwave of pain through his body. The second bullet found its mark, piercing through his head. In an instant, Ahnaf's momentum was halted, and he fell to the ground beside the man, his body lifeless.



"AHNAF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!
THIS CANT BE!!!!
NO NO NO NO NO WAY !!!!!!!
NO WAYYY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Kelly's screams could be heard from a distance, a heart-wrenching cry of anguish and despair. The forest, once filled with the sounds of battle, now seemed eerily silent, the weight of the moment pressing down on everything.

And then everything turned black as they covered our faces with some cloth. Kelly was screaming and crying uncontrollably as she fainted and fell to the ground. The sound of a jeep could be heard, its engine rumbling ominously. They made me sit inside, my body moving on autopilot. I was in a state of shock, my mind unable to process what had just happened. I did as I was asked in silence, my thoughts a jumbled mess.

The jeep's interior was cold and unwelcoming, the rough fabric of the seat pressing against my back. The smell of gasoline and sweat filled the air, adding to the sense of disorientation. My hands were bound, and the cloth over my face made it impossible to see anything. The only sounds were the hum of the engine and the occasional murmur of voices.

As the jeep started moving, the gentle rocking motion lulled me into a daze. My mind replayed the events over and over, the image of

Ahnaf's lifeless body haunting me. Kelly's cries echoed in my ears, a constant reminder of the pain and loss we had just experienced.

Slowly, exhaustion took over, and I felt myself drifting off to sleep. The darkness was a welcome escape from the harsh reality, a brief respite from the overwhelming emotions. But even in sleep, the memories lingered, a constant reminder of the battle we had fought and the sacrifices we had made.

'I am so sorry, Ahnaf. I failed to protect you this time. I feel utterly useless. It was always you, Ahnaf, who faced dangers head-on with unwavering courage. While I ran away from it, time and time again. For me, it was always about justice and doing the right thing, but you... you became a vigilante to protect us from harm. You did it selflessly, over and over again, and I never truly appreciated your sacrifices. Instead, I talked you down every single time.

And now... look at what it has led to... losing you. My heart aches with regret and sorrow. I am so sorry. I don't know where they are taking us, but if I somehow don't make it, let's meet on the other side, yeah? I hope you can forgive me, my friend. Your bravery and selflessness will always be remembered. Until we meet again, Ahnaf...'

